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BERLIN TASK FORCE

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Minutes and Assignments of Meeting, December 12, 1961

Guthrie
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1. MR Briefing

Mrs. Mautner gave an intelligence briefing stressing the following points: a) Soviet communique and note requesting the arrest and extradition of West German General Hausinger for "war crimes", b) East German Premier's press conference stressing recent incidents on the sector border, especially the shooting of the Austrian student, c) Menshikov's speech of December 11 reiterating Khrushchev's hard line on Berlin negotiations, d) speech of West Berlin SED party functionary on proposal to make West Berlin the 11th Land of the Federal Republic, e) Kharthov lecture in which Soviet official projected the use of Soviet troops along the access routes and on the zonal borders as part of a Warsaw Pact agreement, f) Soviet note to Greeks on their "anti-Soviet" activities, g) amplification of Balkov statement in Neues Deutschland article on need for trade negotiations between West Berlin Senat and East German trade officials, h) slow-down in truck clearances at Ebnoburg check-point, i) further restrictions on the movements of Potsdam Mission personnel, and j) death of West Berlin Senator Lippchitz and significance thereof.

2. Hausinger Note, Press Guidance

Mr. Brandin stated that our response would be on an "if asked" basis. We have no intention of replying to the note and intend to treat the matter in a low key as unworthy of concern.

3. Press Guidance, Menshikov Speech

Mr. Brandin stated that Mr. Cox GER/P is drafting a statement on this speech. The speech contains nothing new and merely parrots Khrushchev's earlier speech to the WFTU and his conversations with Norwegian Foreign Minister Lange.

4. Foreign Minister's Meeting at Paris

Mr. Brandin noted that we have only incomplete reports of the meetings so far. Discussion will be delayed until complete reports are available.

5. Identification Procedures on Sector Border

Mr. Brandin asked Mr. Day to review the problems raised in Berlin's telegram 1170 at tomorrow's meeting of the Quadrupartite Contingency Coordinating Committee.

6. Rotation of Battle Group on Autobahn

Col. Spraggine noted that the latest movement of convoys on the autobahn was not delayed or harassed en route. Col. Shewalter said that the last out-bound convoys would reach Uelstede on December 15th, the last inbound convoys will reach West Berlin December 14th.

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